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General

Instructions regarding alleged breakdown of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

*225 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government ever intimated to their subordinate authorities that the Gandhi-Irwin Pact has been broken; and

(b) whether any instructions were conveyed by the Government to district officers to consider the Congress as enemies of the Government?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know, Sir, if the Government say that they have not given any instructions to the Police, whether they are aware of the recent happenings in Madura and one or two other places which justify the inference on the part of the people that the Government have been responsible for breaking the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in this province ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:—" A number of questions have been asked on this subject, and we have given replies to them, and perhaps they will come up here to-morrow or the day after. They will show that the Pact has been observed in this province."

Alleged circular by the District Magistrate, Chittoor, for unfettered use of section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, in cases of picketing.

* 226 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the District Magistrate of Chittoor has asked the Sub-Magistrates in the Chittoor district, to use section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, freely in cases of picketing;

(*b*) whether he has instructed them, by circular or otherwise, to treat picketing by Congress people as a political offence to be crushed, whenever possible, by whatever means; and

(*c*) whether the District Superintendent of Police of Chittoor has been authorized by the District Magistrate to approach the Sub-Magistrates direct and get orders under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, against picketers?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) No.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" May I know if the Government are aware that the District Magistrate of Chittoor circularised to his subordinates that the Gandhi-Irwin Pact had been broken and that the Government officers were at liberty to deal with Congressmen as they pleased? "

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "As I have just now said, the Government have already furnished answers to a number of questions on this subject, and I need not add anything to them."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I then ask Government what they mean by saying 'no' in answer to this question on paper, while an answer is promised to these questions later on?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "This is only a statement of fact."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur:—"Is the Gandhi-Irwin Pact in force in this province or not at present?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "As hon. Members know, it is in force."

Government Press

Supersession of the claims of seniors in making promotions to the posts of Type Store-keeper and Overseer, Government Press.

* 227 *Q.*—Mr. C. Basu Dev: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the matter of promotions to the posts of Type Store-keeper and Overseer in the Government Press, Mint Buildings, Madras, on Rs. 100—5—150 and Rs. 150—5—200, respectively, the claims of senior men were overlooked; if so, why; and

(*b*) what are the duties of the Type Store-keeper in the Government Press, Mint Buildings, and what is the reason for the great disparity in scales of pay between Mount Road man and Mint Buildings man, Rs. 30—2—60 and Rs. 100—5—150?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The duties of the type-store-keeper in the Government Press at Mint Buildings are

(1) to be in charge of the type-store and to do all duties connected with it,

(2) to issue unserviceable types, leads, etc., to the foundry and to examine, weigh and receive all types cast in the foundry,

(3) to be in charge of moulds, matrices and punches,

(4) to be in charge of the press and machine departments in the temporary absence of the overseer, and

(5) to be in charge of the library of books on technical subjects maintained in the press at Mint Buildings for the use of the employees.

The type-store work at Mount Road press is only about half of that in the press at Mint Buildings and the type-store-keeper at the Mount Road press has not to attend to the duties mentioned in items (2) to (5) above. The difference in pay referred to is thus accounted for by the difference in work and responsibility of the two posts.